

WISHA Interim Interpretive Memorandum
Washington Department of Labor and Industries
#98-1-J
CERTIFICATION OF FISH DOCK CRANES

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WISHA Policy & Technical Services

Date Issued: January 6, 1998

Background

Employers using cranes and other material handling devices in maritime industries are subject to maritime crane certification requirements.

WAC 296-56-60085(9) requires "limit switches" to "be installed on the main line and whip line assemblies which will deactivate the hoisting power when a load reaches the upper limits of travel and at such other places as required by this chapter."

Questions have been raised regarding the need for such anti-two-blocking devices on limited capacity, shop-built, fish-dock cranes. This memorandum, which provides guidance to WISHA Consultation and Compliance staff (as well as to crane certifiers) regarding this issue, will remain in effect until a more formal directive has been finalized.

Policy

1. WISHA Consultation and Compliance staff must enforce the requirements of WAC 296-56-60085(9) as appropriate to the situation. All devices, switches, controls and safeguards required by the standard must be installed and operational.
2. Employers wishing to be released from the specific requirements of the standard because they have provided an alternative means of protection or because they have otherwise addressed the hazard will be handled on a case-by-case basis using existing WISHA variance procedures.
3. In the absence of an approved variance, WISHA Services will not certify maritime material handling devices when the necessary safeguards are not in place or when other discrepancies exist.